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MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
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SEPTEMBER TONNAGE MARKS THIRD MONTH OF VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE

The September 1983 ATA Tonnage Index was 139.8(p), a level virtually unchanged from July (139.9f) and August (140.0r). Last month, the August result showed a minor decline on a preliminary basis. Late August reports received, however, caused the Index to rise fractionally above July 1983 levels. Even though tonnage has been stable the last three months, it shows an improved industry volume compared to 1982 where tonnage began a pronounced decline in September through November. The September 1983 Index marks the fifth month in a row of exceeding year earlier levels.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey climbed from 7.2 million tons in August to just over 7.4 million tons in September of 1983. Actual tons increased 3.5%. However, the substantial influence of adjustments for variations due to seasonality the number of working (trading) days reduced the September Index level to 139.8(p).

From August to September of 1983, industrial production increased 1.5% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index decline of 0.1%.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short-term non-significant movements in the series.

Cumulative tonnage for the first nine months of 1983 increased 4.9 percent from the same period in 1982.

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1983
1967 = 100

	Sept. 1983	Aug. 1983	July 1983	Sept. 1982	Monthly % Change 8/83 / 7/83	Monthly % Change 9/83 / 8/83	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	139.8p	140.0r	139.9f	129.7f	+0.1	-0.1	+7.8
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	147.3p	142.2r	127.3f	137.4f	+11.7	+3.6	+7.2
Industrial Production Index[2] (total)	153.7	151.4	149.2	137.3	+1.5	+1.5	+11.9
Manufacturers (total)	155.0	152.3	150.4	137.1	+1.3	+1.8	+13.1
Non-durable	174.2	172.1	170.2	156.7	+1.1	+1.2	+11.2
Durable	141.7	138.6	136.8	123.5	+1.3	+2.2	+14.7
Retail Store Sales Index[2] (adjusted)	407.5	401.2	405.3	368.2	-1.0	+1.6	+10.7
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	285.1	286.2	285.7	281.2	+0.2	-0.4	+1.4
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	301.8	300.3	299.3	293.3	+0.3	+0.5	+2.9
Tonnage Reported by 187 Carriers in September 1983 (000 tons)	7,428	7,174	n.a.	6,586	n.a.	+3.5	+12.8

p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)
4 - Goods and services

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX — HISTORICAL — 1967 = 100

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983*
January	164.8	192.3	163.7	152.6	129.1	126.6
February	174.1	198.8	156.6	152.1	132.1	125.3
March	176.0	202.7	157.6	152.1	128.8	126.1
April	191.5	143.9	150.4	152.6	130.9	130.8
May	182.5	189.3	142.6	153.5	132.3	133.8
June	180.9	186.8	140.1	152.3	132.4	137.2
July	176.7	185.6	135.4	152.2	130.9	139.9
August	183.7	176.1	142.2	148.7	132.5	140.0r
September	183.3	174.7	146.0	144.5	129.7	139.8p
October	189.5	172.8	147.4	139.9	125.1	
November	186.8	171.5	150.9	135.7	121.3	
December	190.4	168.4	152.4	128.1	121.9	

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1981	152.4	152.3	152.3	152.7	152.8	152.7	151.1	148.5	144.4	140.0	134.6	131.0
1982	129.8	130.0	130.6	130.7	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.0	129.1	125.4	122.8	123.3
1983	124.6	126.0	127.4	130.2	133.9	137.0	139.0r	139.9p				

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.